

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) Inking device having a rotary drum (2), called anilox roll, of a flexographic printing machine, of the kind of a device called doctor blade chambers comprising

a closed box (4,6) extending longitudinally and supported by a frame (8) by the intermediary of a moving means (10), for the application of the moving means (10) against the anilox roll (2) in the kind of enveloping in a sealing way one part of the rotation surface of the anilox roll (2), called inking zone, wherein the said box (4,6) defines and delimits an interior space, called principal chamber, intended to be the place of a circulation of the ink and being furnished for this purpose with a feeding conduit (12) for the ink and with a discharge conduit (14) for the ink, as well as a pair of longitudinal blades, called positive blade (16) for that blade intended to be located upstream of the inking zone and, respectively, negative blade (18) for that blade located downstream of the inking zone, characterized in that

the principal chamber is furnished with means (32, 34) for providing the place of an ink circulation at atmospheric pressure and is divided into two superposed chambers (20, 22) communicating between themselves by ink circulation channels (24) by simple gravity, from the upper chamber (20), called supply chamber, relative to the lower chamber (22), called [[in]] or discharge chamber, wherein the two said chambers (20, 22) are separated one

from the other by a blade (26), called retaining blade, for furnishing an ink ~~reserve~~ reservoir (28) between the two chambers (20, 22) and upstream of the negative blade (18),

of such kind that the ink can circulate by simple gravity in the interior of the box (2,4) and that a reservoir ~~container~~ of the ink (28) is furnished for the inking of the anilox roll (2)[[;]].

2. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1 characterized in that the said circulation channels (24) are formed by a passage furnished outside and beyond of the ends of the retaining blade (26), between this latter retaining blade (26) and the end wall (6) of the box[[;]].

3. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1 characterized in that the end faces of the box (4, 6) are formed by cheeks or side plates (6) intended to be applied in sliding contact against the corresponding end faces of the anilox roll (2), wherein said cheeks or side plates (6) form by themselves sealing members between the box (4,6) and the anilox roll (2)[[;]].

4. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1 characterized in that the negative blade (18) is supported on the box (4,6) by the intermediary of a detachable support (30),
in such a way that the negative blade (18) can be extracted from the box (4,6) by withdrawal of the support without requiring a global replacement of the doctor blade chamber[[;]].

5. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1 characterized in that the retaining blade (26) forms a closed angle A contained between five degrees and 15 degrees and opening toward the negative blade (18) together with the tangent of the anilox roll taking at the point of contact between the retaining blade (26) and the anilox roll (2)[[;]].

6. (previously presented) Device according to claim 1 characterized in that anyone at least of the positive blade (16), negative blade (18), and of the retaining blade (26) is furnished with a means for controlling the contact pressure which the respective blade is intended to exert on the anilox roll (2).

7. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1 characterized in that the moving means (10) of the box (4) comprises a member (11) exerting an elastic pressure on the box relative to the anilox roll (2), wherein the box (4) takes support under the effect of the set elastic pressure, against the frame (8) by the intermediary of [[the]] a controllable thrust (13) with which the box (4) is furnished.

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 7 are in the case. Claims 1 through 5, and claim 7 are being amended.

The Office Action mailed on March 19, 2004 states that claims 1-6 are objected to under 37 CFR1.75(a) as the semi-colons at the end of the claims needs to be changed to a period.

Applicant amends claims 1 – 5 as requested in the Office Action.

The Office Action continues that claim 7 is objected to under 37 CFR1.75(b) as no antecedent basis is present for "the controllable thrust (13)".

Applicant amends claim 7 by replacing "the" with "a" before "controllable thrust (13)".

The Office Action further states that claim 1 is objected to under 37 CFR1.75(a) as "in" line 17 needs to be changed to "or" for claim clarity.

Applicant amends claim 1 as requested in the Office Action.

The Office Action asserts that use of different phrases an ink reserve (28)" and "a reservoir container of the ink 2" needs to be clarified by changing reserve to reservoir and canceling "container".

Applicant amends the language of claim 1 as suggested by the Office Action.


The Office Action continues that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure and that this application is in condition for allowance except for the formal matters. Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C. D. 11, 453 O. G. 213.

Applicant appreciates the fact that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

All claims as presently submitted are deemed to be in form for allowance and an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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